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'Smorgasbord' of ballot issues filed with state

By JEFF MAPES
of The Oregonian staff

SALEM — Oregonians faced the largest number of ballot initiatives in 70 years after prospective measures ranging from a ban on state-funded abortion to the legalization of marijuana were filed with the secretary of state Friday.

Twelve initiatives, accompanied by a total of nearly 1.2 million signatures, were filed before the 3 p.m. deadline to qualify for the November ballot. Eight of them were submitted Friday.

Each of the measures appeared to have enough extra signatures to ensure that it would win a spot on the ballot. The secretary of state's office recommended at least a 10 percent margin to account for invalid signatures.

"It's truly going to be a smorgasbord" of issues on the ballot, predicted Raymond A. Phelps, state elections director. "I think there is something there that would interest most every voter."

Although the number of issues sets a record for the post-World War II era, many of the issues are perennials in Oregon.

Two companion initiatives are aimed at restoring the death penalty, which the state Supreme Court ruled unconstitutional in 1981. Another prospective measure is aimed at reversing the 1975 law allowing people to register to vote as late as election day. And a "victims rights initiative" would expand police and prosecutorial power to "rebalance the scales of justice," in the words of the sponsors.

The most popular initiatives — at least judging from the number of signatures — had been filed in advance of Friday. Two measures that would establish a state lottery each attracted 30,000 more signatures than needed.

Last week, the Oregon Taxpayers Union filed more than 120,000 signatures — roughly 50 percent more than required — to place a proposed property tax limit on the ballot for the fourth time in six years.

This year, however, the property tax limit will be joined by another measure aimed at cutting the cost of government. Backers of a "fair pay" initiative filed 92,400 signatures — they need 83,361 valid ones — with state officials. The measure is aimed at slashing public employee pay and

benefits so that they equal the compensation of "comparable" workers in private industry.

Most of the successful petition campaigns appeared to be more well-organized than in previous years. For instance, a measure legalizing marijuana failed to qualify for the ballot in 1982 when a large number of its signatures were ruled invalid.

This time, supporters tightened their canvassing procedures and gathered 22,000 extra signatures. Colorfully dressed members of the Oregon Marijuana Initiative group spent much of the day demonstrating on the front steps of the Capitol and sang the refrain: "Free marijuana; we're gonna change the law."

Backers of the anti-abortion initiative had to scramble to submit enough signatures. James Bunn of McMinnville, coordinator of the campaign, submitted 87,000 signatures, just a few thousand more than required, in the early afternoon.

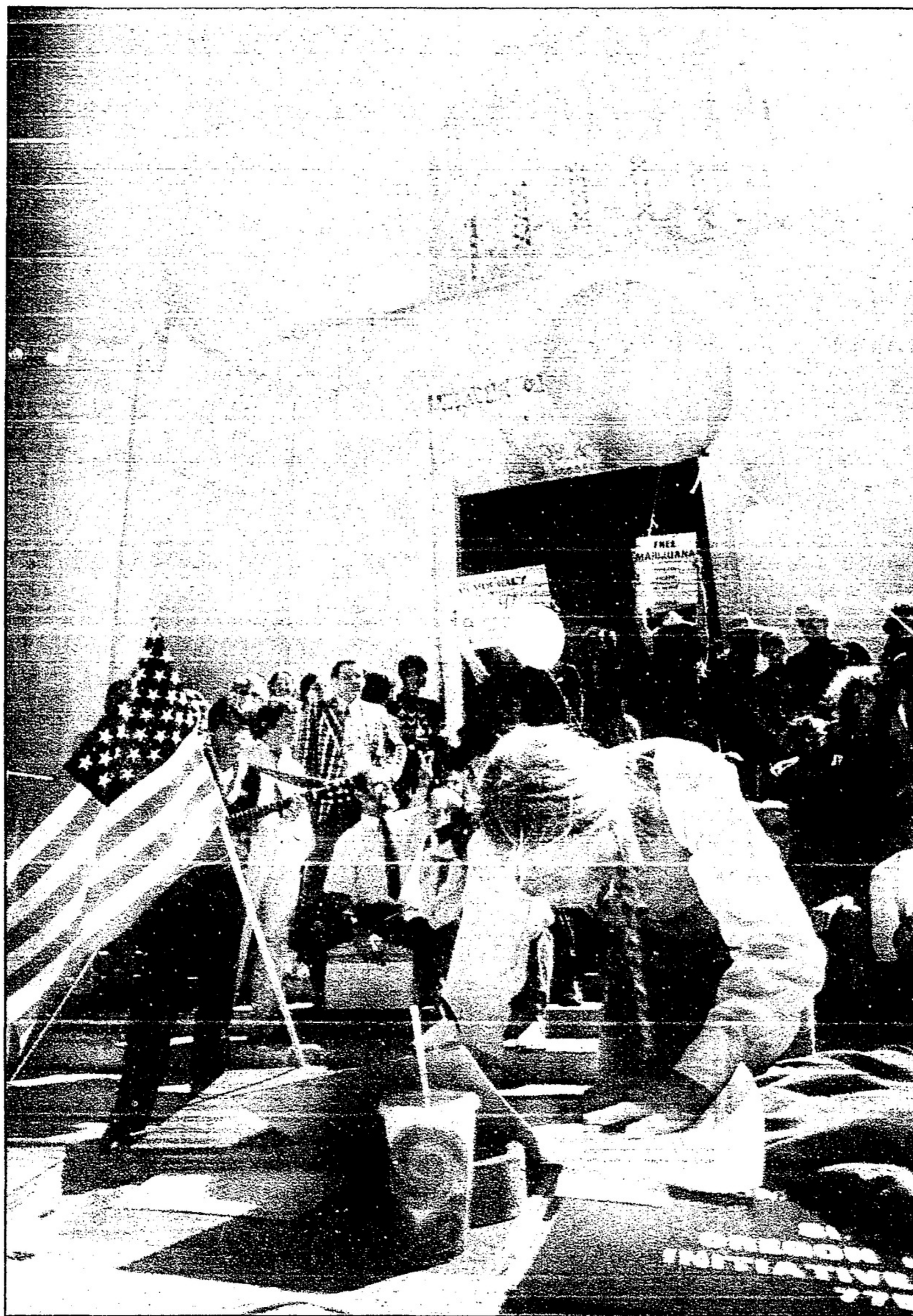
But minutes before Phelps locked the door to the state elections office, Bunn delivered another 9,600 signatures gathered throughout the state in the last few days. The measure, which would allow state funding of abortion only to save the life of a mother, began circulating May 25.

But Bunn said his group, headed by Anthony Meeker, R-Amity, state Senate minority leader, targeted pro-life organizations and churches and was able to quickly gather signatures.

The secretary of state has until July 21 to certify that each of the initiatives has enough signatures to qualify for the ballot. The office uses a random sampling method to check approximately 5 percent of the signatures to see if they are valid. Phelps said the system has a 99.5 percent probability that a valid initiative will not be rejected.

Seventy years ago, Oregonians were asked to vote on 19 initiatives, two of which were approved. The record, however, was set in 1912 when voters faced 28 initiative measures, according to the Oregon Blue Book.

That was the year Oregon men gave Oregon women the right to vote, by the narrow margin of 4,161 votes. Additional details on Page B1.



ADDING A SIGNATURE — As Oregon Marijuana Initiative group members hold rally Friday on the state Capitol steps in Salem, Greg Mihalik, one of the group's organizers, signs petition seeking to put measure on November ballot. Measure would allow adults to possess and grow marijuana for personal use.

Jobless rate falls to 7.1%

By MERRILL HARTSON

WASHINGTON (AP) — Civilian unemployment fell to 7.1 percent in June, the lowest since April 1980, prompting President Reagan to proclaim success Friday in simultaneously combating joblessness and high inflation.

An estimated 460,000 Americans found work last month, the Labor Department said. Stacked on top of 890,000 jobs created the month before, total employment in a two-month span soared by 1.35 million.

Since the low-point of the recession in late 1982, more than 6.7 million people have gone to work, while the roster of those officially declared as jobless has shrunk from well over 12 million to just above 8 million.

Reagan, appearing before the Texas Bar Association in San Antonio, de-

Lag forecast in state rate

The June unemployment rate in Oregon is expected to be higher than the national rate of 7.1 percent, as it has been since 1978, according to Mark E. Hunt of the Oregon Employment Division.

Preliminary figures for last month's unemployment in Oregon will be released Tuesday, said Hunt, a research analyst. He said he could not predict if the rate would decline. The seasonally adjusted jobless rates were 8.1 percent in May and April, down from a seasonally adjusted rate of 10.4 percent in March.

"Oregon is lagging behind in the national recovery due to our dependence on interest-sensitive markets such as wood products," Hunt said.

More people normally work in agriculture and tourism-related jobs in the summer, but that won't necessarily affect the overall rate, he said.

clared that his has been the first administration in two decades "that has reduced both unemployment and inflation in the same period of time." He did not specify the "period of time." Records show, however, that the same feat was accomplished from 1975 to 1976, during the administration of Gerald R. Ford.

Labor Secretary Raymond Donovan said "joblessness is now at its lowest level in over four years and well below the (7.5 percent) rate inherited by the Reagan administration. Americans are being put back to work without the pains of inflation."

David Ernst, an analyst with Evans Economics, a forecasting company here, said: "I was definitely surprised by the boom in employment last month. The economy has continued to out-perform virtually all expectations."

Not everyone was pleased, however.

The Roosevelt Centennial Youth Project, a private, liberal-oriented group focusing on the special labor market problems of teen-agers, picketed the Labor Department, claiming that far too many people remain out of work.

Frank Slobig, a spokesman for the group, said he was worried that the plight of those still without jobs "is going to get buried in the rhetoric of the Reagan euphoria about the rising tide carrying the boats. But a lot of people have not yet found the boat."

Slobig was referring to teen-age unemployment, which stood at 17.6 percent last month, although that was down significantly from 19 percent the previous month.

But the Labor Department report also showed a dramatic decline in the rate of joblessness among black teenagers, a segment of the population that has suffered unemployment as high as 56 percent in recent years. The unemployment rate for that group plummeted from 44.1 percent to 34.3 percent in June.

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Talks offer repeated by Soviets

By SETH MYDANS
New York Times News Service

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union reiterated its offer Friday to hold talks with the United States on banning arms in space; but it appeared to add a precondition, calling for a joint moratorium on testing.

A government spokesman said such talks, which the Soviet Union has proposed for September, would be "incompatible" with the continued testing of space weapons.

The spokesman's comments came at a news conference here after Tass, the official press agency, issued a new official statement saying that Moscow's offer for negotiations on banning all types of weapons in space remained open.

In Washington, a White House spokesman called the Tass statement "good news," saying: "The Soviets indicated in their statement that they are glad to meet. So as far as we're concerned, the meeting will take place."

But the Tass statement went on to say that such negotiations could not include any other items on the agenda, as the United States has suggested.

The Tass statement also said Washington's response to its offer last Friday showed the Reagan administration was "sidestepping" the question of a test moratorium, which it called "an important element" of its proposal.

The Soviet spokesman, Vladimir B. Lomeiko, said the Soviet Union had imposed its own unilateral moratorium on the testing of weapons in space last August.

"In this way, naturally, the talks would be incompatible with the testing, orbiting and production of such weapons," he said.

Western diplomats here said the Kremlin was moving to regain propaganda ground lost to the United States in the exchanges of statements over negotiations. They also said Moscow appeared to have clarified and hardened its opposition to the broader talks proposed by the United States.

Celebration to welcome Olympic torch

The Olympic Torch Relay moved south Friday on its way to a celebration at Pioneer Courthouse Square in Portland on Saturday, the 61st day of the run across America.

The festivities will honor the 50-member caravan that will carry the flame through Oregon. Heading south on U.S. 30, the Portland-area torch carriers are expected to arrive at about 9 p.m. in the square, where they will stop for only a few minutes before continuing southward.

At the square, relay runners will rub elbows with Olympic dignitaries, such as a five-time Olympic swimming gold medalist, Don Schollander of Oregon City, honorary chairman of the event.

The celebration will begin at 3 p.m. with the salsa band, "Ritmo Tropical," followed by the Swedish Rosebud Dancers and Fariba, a Greek belly dancer. At about 7:40 p.m., comedian Daley Pike will entertain, followed by the rock 'n' roll band Nu Shooz. At 8:40 p.m., a Greek steel band, "Cloud Africa," will perform, and at 8 p.m. Olympic dignitaries will be introduced before the ceremony to greet bearers of the 2½-foot torch.

An estimated two dozen Youth

Legacy Kilometer runners will help carry the flame through Portland on its way to Clackamette Park in Oregon City, where the caravan will spend the night.

Each runner is to carry the torch one kilometer, or five-eighths of a mile.

Sponsors are paying \$3,000 for each kilometer run by the Youth Legacy runners, with the proceeds going to youth groups nationwide. When there are no sponsors for parts of the run, the torch is carried by runners from AT&T Communications.

Youth Legacy runners in the Portland area include Dr. Henry Grass of Banks, Portland mail carrier Charles Tume, 7-year-olds Aimee and Zachariah Angel of Portland, 17-year-old Grant High School senior and fencer Tauheed Sadruddin and 62-year-old Melba Henderson of Gladstone, representing the Gladstone Boys Club.

Another participant, Portlander Boris A. Hoeschler, 57, of Powellhurst Nursing Home, who has multiple sclerosis, will be wheeled by Shawn P. Huntly of Portland.

Celebrations like the one at Pioneer Courthouse Square also are scheduled in Salem, Eugene and several smaller cities through which the runners will pass.

The U.S. Postal Service also will have a booth open in Pioneer Courthouse Square from 3 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday for a special pictorial stamp cancellation.

The relay is one leg of a 9,000-mile march that began in New York City on May 8 and that will end in Los Angeles on July 28. The torch was flown from Athens, Greece, to New York. New torches are being lit along the way as souvenirs for the 2,000 Youth Legacy runners.

The relay's corporate sponsor, AT&T Communications, has been pleased by Americans' response of cheers, clapping and flag-waving as the run progresses. They released updated schedules of the 7-mile-per-hour run daily and warned that spectators should arrive along the route at least half an hour before the scheduled time the torch is to pass a particular point.

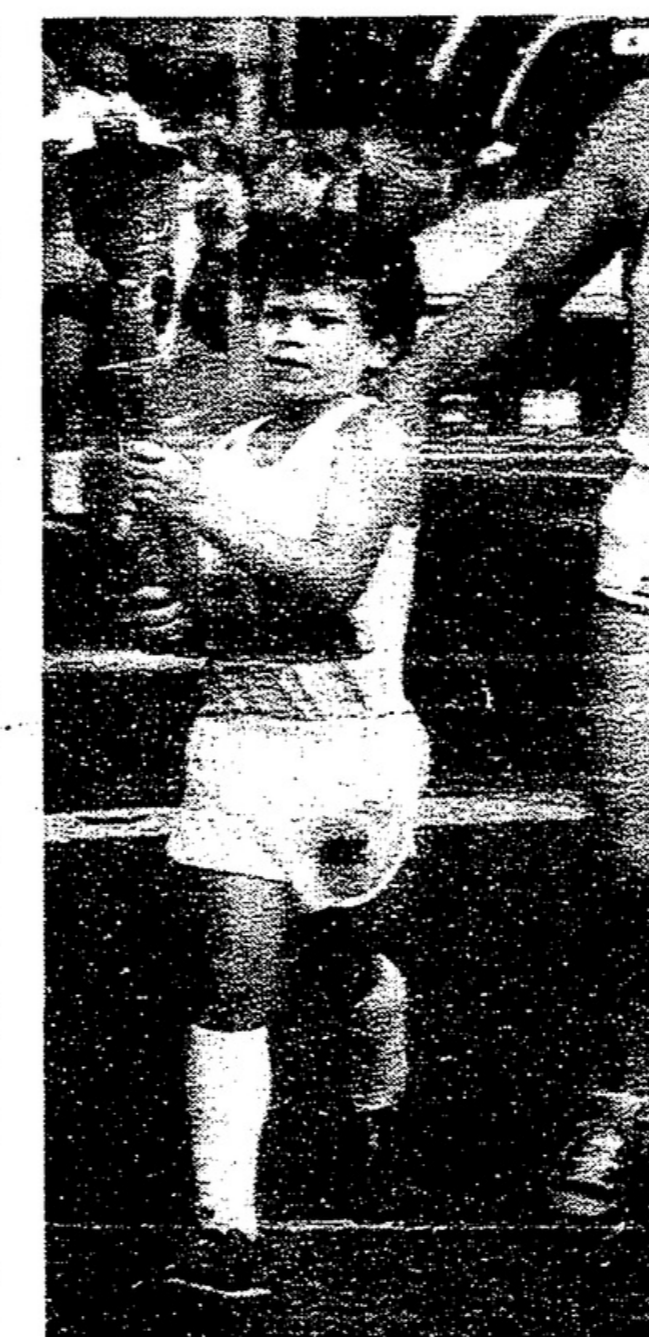
Friday, the torch was in Washington state. Six-year-old Will Parker received a torch from Hugh Foley, a 1964 Olympic gold medalist, and ran a

kilometer through downtown Seattle. Hundreds of cheering citizens, a few with tears in their eyes, lined the streets to cheer the runners on. Addressing the crowd was Rosalynn Summers, a silver medalist in figure skating at the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Summers said watching the torch pass through Seattle "means more to me today than when I stood at the opening ceremonies" in Sarajevo, Yugoslavia.

Bystanders also expressed patriotism as the torch passed. "I was crying, I was so emotionally moved," said Mary Ranelone of Stuart, Fla.

The runners, who continued southward along Interstate 5, passed through Tacoma and Olympia before stopping at Riverside Park in Centralia Friday night. They were to begin again at about 7 a.m. Saturday.



YOUNGEST RUNNER — Will Parker, 6, holds up the Olympic torch Friday as he runs through a portion of downtown Seattle.

